

Environment and Land Use Cycle Grant Award Summaries 2023

Antrim Conservation District, DBA CAKE CISMA

Granted: \$5,000

The Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, and Emmet Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CAKE CISMA) is one of twenty-two CISMA's located throughout the State of Michigan. They work to protect the natural resources, economy, and human health of Northern Lower Michigan through collaborative outreach and management of invasive species. During the summer field season, they travel the four-county region, making at least 400 individual site visits to map and treat invasive species. In addition to on-the-ground management, CAKE CISMA also participates in many outreach events to raise awareness about the impact of invasive species on Michigan's environment. To grow their capacity they need a reliable, low-mileage truck to transport the crew and tow a trailer. Funds will help purchase a gently used vehicle from a local Northern Michigan dealership.

Beaver Island Historical Society

Granted: \$2,000

The Beaver Island Historical Society's (BIHS) mission includes not only sharing and preserving the local history, but also educating the public about the delicate balance of natural history and preserving resources to move toward a healthy Island ecosystem. BIHS plans to create a sustainable garden on the Print Shop Museum grounds filled with native pollinator-friendly plants. These plants will help sustain diminishing populations of vital pollinating insects and the interpretive signage they plan to install will educate the public about the flora, fauna, and role of pollinators in the Island ecosystem and beyond. Grant funds will help purchase soil, plants, seeds, and other garden supplies.

Beaver Island Rural Health Center

Granted: \$8,000

The Beaver Island Rural Health Center (BIRHC) provides care for a community of 600 to 700 year-round residents, more than 40,000 visitors, and 3,000 to 4,000 seasonal residents. The HC offers primary and urgent care, preventive medical care, and chronic condition treatment as well as dental, mental health, substance abuse, chiropractic, physical therapy, optometry, and podiatry services through visiting providers. The HC is looking for ways to lower energy costs while maintaining safety, improving patient experience, and reducing the HC's carbon footprint. Grant funds will help transition all lighting at the HC to LED, which will significantly reduce costs and energy output, while also improving the health and safety of health center staff and patients.

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Camp Daggett

Granted: \$5,000

Camp Daggett's footprint includes 140 acres of land and 1,425 feet of Walloon Lake frontage. The health and sustainability of the land and water on which they reside is instrumental in executing and furthering their mission. With grant funds, they will correct a poorly designed drainage system in a steep shoreline slope and preserve an historic cabin. Work will include removal of a failed underground drainage system, removal of a failed retaining wall, and replacement of the existing retaining wall. The new wall will retain the important root structure of existing vegetation at the top of the steep slope and drainage will be corrected and managed to reduce the threat of erosion.

East Jordan Public Schools

Granted: \$5,500

East Jordan Public Schools aims to expand outdoor and environmental learning opportunities for students, while also protecting the delicate aquatic ecosystem at Brown's Creek. Currently, students from both the Elementary and Middle High Schools utilize this area, but it has become run down and unsafe at times. EJPS plans to upgrade, repair, and add to the existing boardwalk system to make it safe for students and staff to access the area. This project will impact students by connecting them to the resources and landscape around them. It will give them the opportunity to not only learn about the abundant natural resources around them but will also extend classrooms outdoors where hands-on learning can take place.

Friends of the Jordan River Watershed

Granted: \$5,000

The Friends of the Jordan River Watershed's (FJR) mission is to conserve the natural resources and protect the environmental quality of the Jordan River and its watershed. The proposed Don & Eileen Klein Nature trail will travel right by the FJR Watershed Center when it's complete. FJR plans to have the center open for visitors to help educate the public about conserving and protecting our natural resources. To prepare for this, FJR will need the Watershed Center building in pristine condition. Grant funds will support building maintenance such as painting and staining the exterior of the building and making necessary repairs.

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Little Traverse Conservancy

Granted: \$4,000

Little Traverse Conservancy (LTC) works to protect the natural diversity and beauty of northern Michigan by preserving significant land and scenic areas and fostering appreciation and understanding of the environment. The Hoffmann and DeNardis Nature Preserves contain about 30 acres of wetland habitat including cedar swamp and wet meadow areas where the invasive reed canary grass has taken over. LTC plans to remove invasive species and to follow up with native plantings. Additionally, because there is currently no trail on the DeNardis Preserve, and the most interesting habitats are in and around the wetlands, LTC plans to install a new trail and bridge connecting to the existing trail on the Hoffmann Preserve. Funding will support LTC in invasive species removal, native plant installation, and boardwalk and bridge creation.

Tara's Meadow Education & Retreat Center

Granted: \$3592

Building on successes over the last few years, Tara's Meadow (TM) plans to continue expanding sustainability initiatives on Beaver Island, including events around the Beaver Island Sustainability Fair, as well as research into the Island's current energy usage, areas of energy weakness and susceptibility, anticipated future energy needs, and current electric and fossil fuel costs. TM will coordinate meetings with stakeholders, host community conversations, and facilitate leadership education regarding potential renewable and sustainable energy strategies such as solar, micro-grid systems, geothermal, wave energy, etc. TM will also engage youth mentees and adult mentors in strategy planning, education, and hands on projects during the week leading up to the Beaver Island Sustainability Fair.

Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy

Granted: \$5,000

A primary focus of Walloon Lake Association & Conservancy's (WLAC) most recent Strategic Plan is elevating and accelerating conservation efforts via community engagement. Through their boat cleaning station initiative, they are targeting local residents, visitors to the area, and all recreational boat users. Grant funds will help WLAC purchase a permanent boat cleaning station in Charlevoix County, which will be a solar-powered, high-pressure air cleaning system. These units include a vacuum for removing water from bilges and live wells, tongs, plug wrench, cleaning brush, and data collector to track usage metrics. The station will be used to clean boats coming in and out of Walloon Lake to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by removing plant and animal particles before moving the watercraft from one lake to another.

